Earthquake Risk Evaluation Cell

659. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Eastern Council sponsored Earthquake Risk Evaluation Cell set up in the late seventies is now defunct; and

(b) whether the Central Government will take suitable measures to activate this all considering that North Eastern region is located in area of high seismic sensitivity and to set up an Autonomous Centre for Earthquake Studies in the region which will among other things initiate suitable disaster preparedness programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The work and activities of the Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) is being looked after by Science and Technology Cell of NEC Secretariat since 1990. The S and T Cell is active. Suggestion for setting up an Autonomous Centre for Earthquake Studies in the North Eastern region would be referred to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India for their consideration.

Crime in Delhi

660. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of robbery, dacoity, murders and kidnappings reported in Delhi during the last four months, month- wise and colony-wise, with the details of losses of life and properties; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to stop such incidents by providing safety to the residents of Delhi/New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statutory Development Block for Konkan

† 661. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a proposal regarding constitution of an independent Statutory Development block for Konkan; tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.